

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1           1.    A spring tensioning mechanism comprising:  
2                   a support bracket;  
3                   an axle, supported by the support bracket;  
4                   an outboard plate, disposed adjacent to, and secured  
5           to, the support bracket;  
6                   an inboard plate, disposed adjacent to the outboard  
7           plate;  
8                   a spring, disposed around the axle, having a first  
9           end secured to the inboard plate and a second end  
10          operably connected to the axle.

1           2.    The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 1 further  
2          comprising a clocking feature on the outboard plate.

1           3.    The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 2 wherein  
2          the clocking feature on the outboard plate comprises a pin  
3          bore.

1           4.    The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 1 further  
2          comprising a clocking feature on the inboard plate.

1        5.    The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 4 wherein  
2    the clocking feature on the inboard plate comprises a pin  
3    bore.

1        6.    The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 1 further  
2    comprising a pin bore in the outboard plate and a  
3    corresponding pin bore in the inboard plate.

1        7.    The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 1 wherein  
2    the inboard plate comprises at least one receiver.

1        8.    The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 7 wherein  
2    the receiver has the shape of a hollow square tube.

1           9.    A spring tensioning mechanism comprising:  
2                a support bracket having a substantially-planar main  
3 panel having an axle bore disposed therein;  
4                an axle, disposed orthogonally to the substantially-  
5 planar main panel and passing through the axle bore and having  
6 a drum secured thereto;  
7                an outboard plate disposed inboard of the support  
8 bracket and secured to the support bracket;  
9                an inboard plate disposed inboard of the outboard  
10 plate;  
11               a spring, disposed around the shaft, having a first  
12 end secured to the inboard plate and a second end secured to  
13 the drum.

1           10. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 9 further  
2 comprising a clocking feature on the outboard plate.

1           11. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 10 wherein  
2 the clocking feature on the outboard plate comprises a pin  
3 bore.

1           12. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 9 further  
2 comprising a clocking feature on the inboard plate.

1        13. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 12 wherein  
2 the clocking feature on the inboard plate comprises a pin  
3 bore.

1        14. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 9 further  
2 comprising a pin bore in the outboard plate and a  
3 corresponding pin bore in the inboard plate.

1        15. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 9 wherein  
2 the inboard plate comprises at least one receiver.

1        16. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 15 wherein  
2 the receiver has the shape of a hollow square tube.

1           17. A spring tensioning mechanism comprising:  
2                 a support bracket having a substantially-planar main  
3 panel having an axle bore therein, and a mounting panel  
4 disposed orthogonally to the main panel;  
5                 an outboard plate having a bearing therein disposed  
6 inboard of the support bracket and secured thereto by at least  
7 one fastener;  
8                 an axle, supported by the bearing and having a drum  
9 disposed thereon, disposed orthogonally to the substantially-  
10 planar main panel and passing through the axle bore;  
11                 an inboard plate disposed inboard of the outboard  
12 plate having a set of receivers disposed adjacent to the  
13 perimeter thereof; and  
14                 a coil spring, disposed around the shaft, having a  
15 first end secured to the inboard plate and a second end  
16 secured to the drum.

1           18. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 17 further  
2 comprising a clocking feature on the outboard plate.

1           19. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 17 further  
2 comprising a clocking feature on the inboard plate.

1           20. The spring tensioning mechanism of claim 17 further  
2 comprising a retaining pin shaped and sized to lock the radial  
3 orientation of the inboard plate with respect to the outboard  
4 plate.